

**In the Claims:**

**At claim 1, line 2, delete “deformation” and substitute therefor - - flexing - -.**

**At claim 3, line 3, delete “cut, attached or othrwise”;**

**At claim 4, line 1-2, delete “cut or otherwise”;**

**At claim 4, line 3-4, delete “or deviation”;**

**At claim 5, line 3, delete cut or otherwise formed”;**

**At claim 8,line 3 delete “lower surface” and substitute therefor - -base end - -.**

**These amendments appear on their respective pages as follows:**

- 1) (Rewritten) An orthotic device comprising a generally foot sole shaped base of a material that resists [deformation] flexing and having a metatarsal-phalangeal area and a heel area and including an interdigitated portion in the metatarsal-phalangeal area of the orthotic device that underlies the metatarsal-phalangeal aspect of the foot of a user.
- 2) The orthotic device of claim 1 further including an interdigitated portion in the heel area that underlies the heel of a user.
- 3) (Rewritten) The orthotic device of claim 1 having an upper and a lower surface and a thickness wherein said interdigitated portion is defined by a relieved area [cut, attached or otherwise] formed in said lower surface and said relieved area defines one or more resilient prongs that flex to store energy when the weight of a user is applied thereto and flex to release said stored energy when said weight is removed from said prongs.
- 4) (Rewritten) The orthotic device of claim 3 wherein said relieved area is [cut or otherwise] formed in said lower surface to allow depression [or deviation] from the main body of said device.
- 5) (Rewritten) The orthotic device of claim 2 wherein said orthotic has a thickness and an upper and a lower surface and said interdigitated

portions are formed by relieved areas [cut or otherwise formed] formed in said lower surface to a depth adequate to allow depression or deviation of said interdigitated portions from the main body of said device.

- 6) The orthotic device of claim 1 fabricated from a material selected from the group consisting of graphite, graphite fibers, carbon, carbon-carbon composites, polymer composites, fiberglass and spring steel.
- 7) The orthotic device of claim 2 fabricated from a material selected from the group consisting of graphite, graphite fibers, carbon, carbon-carbon composites, polymer composites, fiberglass, spring steel.
- 8) (Rewritten) The orthotic device of claim 3 wherein said resilient prongs have a base end at the point of attachment to said base and a distal end and wherein said distal end projects below said [lower surface] base end thereby providing an enhanced energy storage and release capability.
- 9) The orthotic device of claim 8 further including a fulcrum at said base end to further increase the energy storage and release capability of said resilient prongs upon deformation and release.

**Add the following new claims 10-18:**

**10) An orthotic device comprising a generally foot sole shaped base of a material that resists flexing and having a metatarsal-phalangeal area and a heel area and including an interdigitated portion comprising a generally radial array of inwardly extending prongs in the metatarsal-phalangeal area of the orthotic device that underlies the metatarsal-phalangeal aspect of the foot of a user.**

**11) The orthotic device of claim 10 further including an interdigitated portion comprising a generally radial array of inwardly extending prongs in the heel area that underlies the heel of a user.**

**12) The orthotic device of claim 10 having an upper and a lower surface and a thickness wherein said interdigitated portion is defined by a relieved area formed in said lower surface and said relieved area defines one or more resilient prongs that flex to store energy when the weight of a user is applied thereto and flex to release said stored energy when said weight is removed from said prongs.**

**13) The orthotic device of claim 12 wherein said relieved area is formed in said lower surface to allow depression from the main body of said device.**

14) The orthotic device of claim 11 wherein said orthotic has a thickness and an upper and a lower surface and said interdigitated portions are formed by relieved areas formed in said lower surface to a depth adequate to allow depression or deviation of said interdigitated portions from the main body of said device.

15) The orthotic device of claim 10 fabricated from a material selected from the group consisting of graphite, graphite fibers, carbon, carbon-carbon composites, polymer composites, fiberglass and spring steel.

16) The orthotic device of claim 11 fabricated from a material selected from the group consisting of graphite, graphite fibers, carbon, carbon-carbon composites, polymer composites, fiberglass, spring steel.

17) The orthotic device of claim 12 wherein said resilient prongs have a base end at the point of attachment to said base and a distal end and wherein said distal end projects below said base end thereby providing an enhanced energy storage and release capability.

18) The orthotic device of claim 17 further including a fulcrum at said base end to further increase the energy storage and release capability of said resilient prongs upon deformation and release.